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Portland Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1953

E. J. Gordon Wallace M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
PORTLAND.

TELEPHONE : PORTLAND 2121
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PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

Council Offices,
PORTLAND.

June, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Portland Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the year 1953 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

There were no outbreaks of serious infectious disease during the year and no deaths occurred from notifiable diseases. Measles headed the list of notifications with 138 cases. There were 6 cases of poliomyelitis, 2 paralytic and 4 non-paralytic.

The standarised Birth Rate for the year (18.02 per 1,000 population) was slightly higher than that for the previous year (17.38) while the standarised death rate (8.5 per 1,000 population) was lower than in 1952 (9.89). Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 70.

Once more it is a pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has invariably been extended to me throughout the year. I am also most grateful to my fellow officials and to the Council staff generally for their helpful co-operation. In particular Mr. Bolt - your Sanitary Inspector - and Miss J. Hall - part-time clerical assistant have done much to promote the efficiency of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

S. Gordon Wallace

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department Staff

1. Medical Officer of Health:

   E.J.Gordon Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

2. Sanitary Inspector:

   Mr. H.R.A.Bolt, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

3. Clerk (part-time):

   Miss J. Hall.

4. Sanitary Labourer:

   Mr. C. Otter.

In Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 it is stated that "It would be helpful in the Minister's view if full particulars e.g. qualifications and duties, of the Authority's Senior Public Health Officers were published in the Report, together with a list indicating the Committees which are concerned with matters of public health"

It is understood that in referring to the Authority's Senior Public Health Officers the Ministry has in mind the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The intimation requested is as follows:-

My qualifications are as stated above and in addition to my appointment as Medical Officer of Health for Portland I hold the following appointments:-

(a) Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Weymouth & Melcombe Regis.
(b) Port Medical Officer, Weymouth Port Health Authority.
(c) South Dorset Area Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.
(d) Physician-in-Charge, Weymouth Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Mr. Bolt's qualifications are as stated above and in addition to his statutory duties he is also the Hackney Carriage and Petroleum Inspector.

The only Committee of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health is the Housing and Sanitary Committee.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (land and internal water).....2,905 acres

Population (mid 1953)
Estimated by Registrar General.....15,840

No. of houses inhabited at 1st April 1954
(exclusive of Government properties).....2,613

Rateable Value at 1st April, 1954.....£65,322

Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st
April, 1954..... £259

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:

Total Births	172
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	10.86
* Comparability Factor (births)	1.66
Standarised Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.02

Live Births: 169

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	84	74	158
Illegitimate	5	6	11
TOTAL	89	80	169

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population..... 10.66

Still Births: 3

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	2	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population..... 0.19
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live & still) births... 17.44

DEATHS: 99

Males	Females	Total
51	48	99

Death Rate per 1,000 population	6.25
* Comparability Factor (Deaths)	1.36
Standarised Death Rate	8.5

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	1	3

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	-	2

Infant Mortality Rates:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	17.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births	18.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	11.8
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil

* Comparability Factor. This is worked out for each District by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standarised birth and death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude rates.

	England and Wales	160 C.Boro's and Gt.Towns including London	160 Smaller towns (resident pop. 25-50,000 at 1951 Census	London Admin. County
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Births				
Live births.....	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still births.....	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	21.0(a)
Deaths				
All causes.....	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and Para.T.	0.00	0.00	-	-
Whooping Cough....	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Tuberculosis.....	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza.....	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Ac.poliomyelitis (incl. polio-encephalitis).....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia.....	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid fever.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Inf.	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever.....	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough....	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria.....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas.....	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Measles.....	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia.....	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Ac. poliomyelitis (incl. polio-encephalitis)				
Paralytic.....	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-Paralytic...	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food Poisoning....	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
Deaths				
All causes under 1 year of age.....	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	24.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age....	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.
(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy childbirth and the puerperium	68	0.10	-
(Abortion with toxaemia	7	0.01	1
A116 (Other toxaemias of (pregnancy and the (puerperium.....	166	0.24	-

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Intermediate List No. and Cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth...	90	0.13	-
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxaemia.....	30	0.04	3
A119 Abortion with sepsis...	39	0.06	4
A120 Other complications of preganancy, childbirth and the puerperium.....	125	0.18	-

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES - PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT - 1953.

		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	2	-	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other.....	-	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8.	Measles.....	-	-	-
9.	Other infectious and parasitic disease.....	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic Neoplasms.....	6	5	11
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	1	2
16.	Diabetes.....	-	3	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3	6	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina.....	12	3	15
19.	Hypertension with heart disease....	-	2	2
20.	Other heart disease.....	7	11	18
21.	Other circulatory disease.....	1	1	2
22.	Influenza.....	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia.....	2	-	2
24.	Bronchitis.....	1	-	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion....	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.....	2	-	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	4	5	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents.....	2	-	2
35.	Suicide.....	2	2	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
	TOTAL	51	48	99

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Infectious Disease notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:

	March	June	September	December	Total 1953.
Scarlet Fever.....	6	6	1	-	13
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	13	24	37
Paralytic Poliomyelitis.	-	-	1	1	2
Non-paralytic do.	-	-	1	3	4
Measles.....	109	28	-	1	138
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia.....	15	-	-	-	15
Dysentery.....	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis.....	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-
Para-typhoid Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	-	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.....	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD POISONING

No notifications of food poisoning were received during the year.

CLEAN FOOD

The number and description of the food premises in this area are as follows:

Grocers & Provision Shops.....	23
Greengrocers & General Food Shops.....	5
Works Canteens & Hostels.....	4
Cafe & Restaurants.....	9
Wholesale Provisions.....	2
Bakehouses.....	9

The number and description of registered food premises in this area are as follows:

Meat Shops (Sausage making).....	8
Provision Shops (Cooked & Pressed Meats).....	5

There are 32 confectionery, cafes & restaurants, provisions and general shops registered for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the District and nearly all of the retailed ice-cream is in wrapped or pre-packed form.

Improvements have been effected in many of the above shops by a constant supply of hot water and deep-freeze display cabine In two cases the store premises have been reconstructed.

MILK SUPPLY

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register	Inspections made	Number of Contraventions Found during Year	Remedied during year
8	16	-	-

All the above are retailers of designated milk.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

No special "Clean Food Campaign" or other special educational activity took place during the year.

CONDEMNED FOOD

Condemned food is disposed of at the Council's Wide Street Depot under controlled tipping.

SPECIAL EXAMINATION OF STOCK

A large quantity of confectionery and 11 cwts. 12 lbs. of bakery stores were condemned as a result of a fire at the N.A.A.F.I. Bakery Stores at Castletown, Portland.

LICENSED PREMISES

Visits and inspections have been carried out to most of the licensed Hotel and Inn premises in the District. Constant hot water for glass washing is provided in every case and in addition the use of detergents is general. Several lack separate sanitary accommodation for females.

WATER SUPPLY

All houses in the District have a main water supply pumped from the Friar Waddon borehole where the supply is chlorinated.

Twenty-one samples of the public water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows:

Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory	Total
18	1	2	21

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Under Section 11 of this Act, seven houses were represented as being individually unfit for human habitation viz:

No. 25 Clements Lane
* No. 2 Belle Vue Terrace
No. 50 Mallams
No. 48 Mallams
* No. 76 Fortuneswell
* No. 78 Fortuneswell
* No. 49 Reforne

* Undertakings were accepted from owners that premises concerned would not be used for human habitation (Section 11(3) of the Act).

Zylklake, Moorfield Road, Portland.

In October it was reported to the Council that the bottom flat at this address would appear to have been occupied in contravention of a Closing Order made by the Council in November 1949.

Certain works had been carried out but they were not considered sufficient to make the flat fit in all respects for human habitation.

Zylklake, Moorfield Road

Proceedings were taken in the Magistrates Court and the owners were fined £5 with a continuing penalty of 10s. 0d. per day.

Further works were later carried out and the Council have now determined the Closing Order.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Council Dwellings	In process of erection	Completed during 1953	Completed since end of war
Temporary	-	-	40
Permanent			
Traditional Type	-	-	100
Non-Traditional Type	22	120	251
	22	120	391

The Verne Common Stage II Site which was started in July 1952 was almost completed during the year only 22 houses not being handed over. The total number of dwellings on the Stage II Site was increased during the year by the substitution of 5 blocks of 4 flats for 6 pairs of houses a total of 8 extra dwellings.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269

No licenses to station and use caravans in the District were issued during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

Two cases were dealt with during the year - one by application to the Magistrates Court and one under the 1951 Act.

Both concerned old ladies living by themselves in most insanitary conditions.

Several visits were paid to another elderly lady living by herself in rooms and observation of this case is being continued as it seems likely that formal action may eventually prove to be necessary.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS AND THEIR CLOTHING
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 85

In October I reported on difficulties which might arise if a verminous person did not consent to be removed for the necessary treatment to a cleansing station - the procedure being that the Local Authority may then apply to a court of summary jurisdiction which may make an order for his removal to a cleansing station.

The Council resolved - That the powers of the Council under Section 85 of the Public Health Act, 1936, be delegated to their Medical Officer of Health.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

These Regulation came into operation on 1st April, 1953 and supercede the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations1927. Broadly speaking the new Regulations are similar to the old but in addition provide for preventive steps to be taken against the spread of certain specified

diseases, viz: Malaria, Typhus Fever, Relapsing Fever, Typhoid Fever, Paratyphoid Fever, and other Salmonella Infections, Dysentery, and Staphylococcal Infection likely to cause Food Poisoning.

The Regulations enable a Local Authority to authorise their Medical Officer of Health to issue a Notice under the Regulations in an emergency in order to check the spread of these diseases.

At their Meeting on the 15th April, 1953, the Council resolved - That the Medical Officer of Health be authorised in accordance with the Fourth Schedule to the Regulations, generally to issue any Notice on behalf of the Council in relation to any particular case if in his judgment it was immediately and urgently necessary for him to do so for the purposes of preventing the spread of infection.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938 and 1950
MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

On the 5th March a report was received that a sample of non-designated milk taken on the 16th January from a local producer-retailer had been found to contain tubercle bacilli. An official notice was at once served by registered post under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 prohibiting the producer-retailer from selling undesignated milk.

Veterinary inspection of the herd was carried out by officers of the Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and it appeared that a cow sent to the Knackers on 14th February may have been the cause of the trouble.

LETHAL CHAMBER FOR ANIMALS

The modern electric cabinet for the humane destruction of cats and dogs presented to the Council by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is available at the Council's Wide Street Depot on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.

This service has been much appreciated and during the year 73 dogs, 134 cats and 13 kittens were humanely destroyed.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT
INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.....	34	39	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.....	36	85	10	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	9	2	-
TOTAL.....	74	133	18	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.....	6	6	-	-	-
Overcrowding.....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences.					
(a) Insufficient..	4	4	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective....	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.....	6	6	-	-	-
TOTAL.....	19	18	-	-	-

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

With few exceptions the water carriage system is in general use in the District. The closet accommodation is satisfactory. The disposal by means of three outfalls to the sea.

There are twelve buildings drained into cesspools.
Three have pail closets.
Three buildings have septic and filter tanks.
In two instances premises are drained into natural fissures.

SHOPS ACT

Number of inspections made under the Shops Act - 52
No exemption certificates were granted during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS

Number on Register..... 74
Number of inspections made.....133
Number of Notices..... 18
Number of defects found..... 19
Number of defects remedied..... 18

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE

Total number of complaints received..... 81
Total number of visits and inspections made....1594

Nature of Inspection
Visits to houses and inspections of nuisances etc. in course of abatement.....442
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases... 29

Nature of Inspection

Premises disinfected	17
Visits in connection with Infestation	22
Premises disinfested	15
Visits to cowsheds and pig stys	40
Visits to foor preparing shops, canteens, Restaurants etc	102
Visits to fish frying shops	56
Visits to bakehouses	73
Visits to meat shops	81
Visits to factories	133
Visits in connection with rats destruction	82
Miscellaneous visits, interviews with property owners etc	99
Visits under Shops Act	52
Drain tests carried out - Water	68
Smoke	147
Drains unstopped	131
Drainage visits	70
Premises cleansed	6
Accumulations removed	2
Number of Council houses inspected	405

REGULATED BUILDINGS

Common Lodging Houses	-
Offensive Trades	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc	-

Huts are used for seasonal occupation; they have a water supply, but no sewerage disposal system. Public conveniences are provided near the sites by the Local Authority.

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	32

FOOD CONDEMNED

Meat	177 tins
Ham	21½ lbs.
Beef	517 lbs.
Pork	12 lbs.
Bacon	49½ lbs.
Lamb	20 lbs.
Pasties	420
Sausages	67 lbs.
Soup etc	6 tins
Vegetables	16 tins
Fruit	90 tins
Fish	29½ lbs.
Cereals	(22 lbs (14 pks.
Eggs	112
Confectionary	(6 boxes (4 tins

HOUSING

Inspecion of Dwelling Houses

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	101
No. of Inspections made for the purpose	201

HOUSING

Remedy of defects - Informal Action

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action..... 94

Remedy of Defects - Statutory Action

Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 4

No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners..... 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.. -

Proceedings under Public Health Acts

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 4

No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners..... 3

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.. -

Proceedings under Secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 9

No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of a Demolition Order..... 4

Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act 1936

No. of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... 2

OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding exists but to what extent is not known. Several cases of overcrowding have been abated by the granting of tenancies of Council houses by the Council.